IN THE CLAIMS:

The status and content of each claim follows:

1. (currently amended) A system for controlling use of a piece of office equipment or a particular resource available through that piece of equipment, said system comprising:

a piece of office equipment comprising a timer for timing periods during which said equipment receives no user input, wherein said equipment automatically enters a locked state upon elapse of a pre-determined period measured by said timer during which no user input is received; and

a lock control device connected to said piece of office equipment, wherein said lock control device is activated to unlock said equipment upon presentation of [[an]] a physical identifier of an authorized user to a sensor of said lock control device, said sensor sensing a physical presence of said identifier and recognizing said identifier to identify said authorized user,

wherein said lock control device controls user operation of said office equipment by selectively enabling operation of said office equipment or a resource available through that office equipment based on sensing and recognizing said identifier of said authorized user.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said piece of office equipment is a computer or computer terminal.

3. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said lock control device comprises a proximity card sensor.



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4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said lock control device comprises a magnetic card reader.

5. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein said lock control device is connected to said computer or computer terminal via a connection that also connects a keyboard to said computer or computer terminal.

6. (original) The system of claim 2 , wherein said lock control device controls access to a particular application residing on said computer or accessible through said computer terminal.

7. (original) The system of claim 2, further comprising a computer network with at least one network server to which said computer is connected, wherein said lock control device controls access to said network server from said computer.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A method for controlling use of a piece of office equipment or a particular resource available through that piece of equipment, said method comprising:

timing a period during which said equipment receives no user input and placing said equipment or a resource available through said equipment into a locked state upon elapse of a pre-determined period during which no user input is received; and



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re-enabling operation of said piece of office equipment or a resource available through that office equipment to an authorized user upon presentation of an identifier of said authorized user to a sensor of a lock control device connected to said piece of office equipment, wherein said sensor senses and recognizes said identifier to identify said authorized user.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said piece of office equipment is a computer or computer terminal.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising using a proximity card sensor as said lock control device.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising using a magnetic card reader as said lock control device.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising connecting said lock control device to said computer or computer terminal via a connector that also connects a keyboard to said computer or computer terminal.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising accessing a particular application residing on said computer or accessible through said computer terminal by presenting an identifier of said authorized user to said sensor of said lock control device.



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15. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising accessing a network server on a computer network to which said computer is connected by presenting said identifier of said authorized user to said lock control device.

16. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

timing periods during which said computer or computer terminal receives no user input;

locking up or logging out said computer upon elapse of a pre-determined period during which no user input is received; and

unlocking or logging in said computer upon operation of said lock control device.

17-20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein a user initially unlocks said computer or computer terminal with entry of at least one password, said lock control device then allowing said user to subsequently unlock said computer or computer terminal by presentation of said user identifier rather than re-entry of said at least one password.

22. (currently amended) A system for controlling use of a piece of office equipment or a particular resource available through that piece of equipment, said system comprising:

a piece of office equipment comprising a timer for timing periods during which said equipment receives no user input, wherein said equipment automatically enters a locked state



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upon elapse of a first predetermined period of time during which no user input is received; and

a lock control device connected to said piece of office equipment, wherein said lock control device is configured to unlock said piece of office equipment upon presentation of an identifier of an authorized user to a sensor of said lock control device, said sensor sensing and recognizing said identifier to identify said authorized user,

wherein a user initially unlocks said piece of office equipment with entry of at least one password; and

~~The system of claim 21,~~ wherein said lock control device then allows said user to unlock said ~~computer or computer terminal~~ piece of office equipment with presentation of said identifier and without re-entry of said at least one password, said lock control device being active to unlock said piece of office equipment during a second ~~for a~~ predetermined period of time following ~~after~~ entry of said at least one password, with re-entry of said password being required to unlock said piece of office equipment after elapse of said second predetermined period of time, ~~thereafter~~ said second predetermined period of time being longer than said first predetermined period of time.

23. (currently amended) A system for controlling use of a piece of office equipment or a particular resource available through that piece of equipment, said system comprising:

a piece of office equipment comprising a timer for timing periods during which said equipment receives no user input, wherein said equipment automatically enters a locked state upon elapse of a pre-determined period measured by said timer during which no user input is received; and



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a lock control device connected to said piece of office equipment, wherein said lock control device is activated to unlock said equipment upon presentation of an identifier of an authorized user to a sensor of said lock control device, said sensor sensing and recognizing said identifier to identify said authorized user,

wherein said lock control device controls user operation of said office equipment by selectively enabling operation of said office equipment or a resource available through that office equipment based on sensing and recognizing said identifier of said authorized user.

~~The system of claim 1,~~ wherein said identifier comprises a credit card.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said identifier comprises a biological characteristic of said user.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

initially unlocking said computer or computer terminal with entry of at least one password; and

allowing a user to subsequently unlock said computer or computer terminal by presentation of said user identifier rather than re-entry of said at least one password.

26. (currently amended) A method for controlling use of a piece of office equipment or a particular resource available through that piece of equipment, said method comprising:

timing a period during which said equipment receives no user input and placing said equipment or a resource available through said equipment into a locked state upon elapse of a first predetermined period during which no user input is received; and



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re-enabling operation of said piece of office equipment or a resource available through that office equipment to an authorized user upon presentation of an identifier of said authorized user to a sensor of a lock control device connected to said piece of office equipment, wherein said sensor senses and recognizes said identifier to identify said authorized user;

said method further comprising:

initially unlocking said piece of office equipment with entry of at least one password;

allowing a user to subsequently unlock said piece of office equipment by presentation of said user identifier rather than re-entry of said at least one password; and

~~The method of claim 25, further comprising~~ unlocking said piece of office equipment ~~computer or computer terminal~~ with said identifier for a second predetermined period after entry of said at least one password, with re-entry of said password being required to unlock said piece of office equipment after elapse of said second predetermined period of time, ~~thereafter~~ said second predetermined period of time being longer than said first predetermined period of time.

27. (currently amended) A method for controlling use of a piece of office equipment or a particular resource available through that piece of equipment, said method comprising:

timing a period during which said equipment receives no user input and placing said equipment or a resource available through said equipment into a locked state upon elapse of a pre-determined period during which no user input is received; and

re-enabling operation of said piece of office equipment or a resource available through that office equipment to an authorized user upon presentation of an identifier of said



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authorized user to a sensor of a lock control device connected to said piece of office equipment, wherein said sensor senses and recognizes said identifier to identify said authorized user;

~~The method of claim 9,~~ wherein said identifier comprises a credit card.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said identifier comprises a biological characteristic of said user.



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